

Whitehall, May 9.

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Letter from the Right Honourable the Lord Viscount Townshend, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, to the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of London,

Whitehall, May 8, 1722.

My Lord,

HIS Majesty having Nothing more at Heart than the Peace and Safety of his good City of London, the Protection of its Inhabitants, and the Support of Publick Credit, has commanded me to acquaint your Lordship, that he has received repeated and unquestionable Advices, that several of his Subjects, forgetting the Allegiance they owe to his Majesty, as well as the natural Love they ought to bear to their Country, have entered into a wicked Conspiracy, in Concert with Traytors abroad, for raising a Rebellion in this Kingdom in Favour of a Popish Pretender, with a Traiterous Design to overthrow our excellent Constitution both in Church and State, and to subject a Protestant Free People to Tyranny and Superstition: But I am perswaded, that it will be a great Satisfaction to your Lordship and the City to find, that at the same time that I am ordered to inform you of this Design, I am likewise commanded by his Majesty to let you know, that he is firmly assured that the Authors of it neither are, nor will be supported, nor even countenanced by any Foreign Power. And as his Majesty has had timely Notice of their wicked Machinations, and has made the proper Dispositions for defeating them, he has no Reason to doubt, but by the Continuance of the Blessing of Almighty God, and the ready Assistance of his faithful Subjects, this Effort of the Malice of his Enemies will be turned to their own Confusion.

His Majesty makes no Doubt but your Lordship, pursuant to the Trust reposed in you, will, in Conjunction with the other Magistrates of his good City of London, exert with the utmost Care and Vigilance your Authority at so important a Conjunction, for the Preservation of the Publick Peace, and the Security of the City.

I am, &c.

TOWNSHEND.

To the King's most Excellent Majesty,
The humble Address of the Lord Mayor and
Court of Aldermen of the City of London,

Most Gracious Sovereign,

YOUR Majesty having been graciously pleased to signify to the Lord Mayor, how much you have at Heart the Peace and Safety of your City of London, the Protection of its Inhabitants, and the Support of Publick Credit, and that your Majesty has unquestionable Advices of a wicked Conspiracy, entered into by some of your Majesty's Subjects, in Concert with Traytors abroad, for raising a Rebellion in this Kingdom in Favour of a Popish Pretender to your Majesty's Crown.

We the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen of this City, most humbly intreat your Majesty's Permission, to make this our immediate approach to your Royal Presence, that we may return our most humble and unfeigned Thanks for this Instance of your Majesty's tender and indulgent Regard to your faithful and dutiful Subjects of this City, and that we may have Leave to give your Majesty Assurances of our steady and unalterable Affection and Zeal for your Royal Person and Government, and for the continuance of the Protestant Succession in your Royal Family.

And it is an unspeakable Satisfaction to us, that we can at the same time Congratulate your Ma-

sty on the happy Success of those Negotiations, which have procured Assurances, that these wicked and traitorous Purposes will not be supported or countenanced by any Foreign Power.

When we reflect on the many Blessings which Britons enjoy, under the Protection of a Prince, who makes the Laws of this Land his Rule for the Government of his People; when we consider that neither the Civil, or Religious Rights of your Majesty's Subjects have met with the least Instance of Violation, since your Majesty's happy Accession to the Throne of these Realms; when we recollect your Majesty's Royal Clemency, and Benevolence, (since the last Rebellion) to Numbers of those who had offended in the highest Degree, against their King and the Laws of their Country, we cannot but express the utmost Abhorrence of those vile and detestable Persons, who shall again conspire and attempt to bring a free and happy People under the Yoke and Tyranny of Superstition, and to involve this Nation in a State of Blood, Misery, and the utmost Confusion.

And as these must be the unavoidable Consequences attending any Enterprize to alter our present happy Establishment, and to introduce a Popish one;

As Englishmen that value our Liberties; as honest Men that have sworn Allegiance to your Majesty, and who have abjured and renounced the Pretender, and as real Friends to our excellent Constitution in Church and State, (with a Protestant Prince at the Head of it,) we beg Leave in the most solemn Manner, to declare to your Majesty, that as we are bound in Gratitude, we will exert our selves in our several Stations, with the utmost Care and Vigilance, for the Preservation of the Publick Peace and Tranquility, and for the restoring of Publick Credit, and that we will use our sincere and hearty Endeavours for the firm Support of your Majesty upon the Throne, and for the making your Reign easy and happy.

And we doubt not, but by the Blessing of Almighty God upon the Wisdom and Conduct of your Majesty, and the Vigilance of your Councils, and the ready and chearful Assistance of your Majesty's faithful Subjects, your Majesty will entirely defeat and frustrate the Malice and Efforts of all your Enemies, their Aiders and Abettors, and that their wicked Machinations will be turned to their own Confusion.

Stracey.

To which His Majesty was pleased to return the following most gracious Answer.

YOUR Affectionate and Cordial Assurances, upon this important Occasion, of an unshaken Zeal and Fidelity to my Person and Government, give me the greatest Satisfaction.

Your Interest and mine are and ever must be inseparable, and I doubt not but that, with the Blessing of God, the Precautions I have taken and your firm Adherence to our just Cause, will soon convince our Enemies that their wicked Designs can end in nothing but their own Confusion.

You may depend upon my constant Care and utmost Endeavours to support the Publick Credit, to protect the Privileges and Properties of this great and opulent City, and to maintain the Religion, Laws and Liberties of this Kingdom.

After which the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Sheriffs had the Honour to kiss His Majesty's Hand; and His Majesty was pleased to confer the Honour of Knighthood on Edward Beecher, Esq; one of the Sheriffs.

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